

Scene Seven

RENÉ is discovered in a spot as the Café materialises.

RENÉ It is now March the fourteenth. Despite much persuasion, I have steadfastly refused to become involved in that insane plot to capture Hitler, so presumably, they are thinking of another plan.

A German soldier comes downstairs with MIMI.

Good evening. *(To the audience)* Business is brisk, especially monkey business.

MIMI *(at the door)* Better luck next time, Monsieur.

The soldier goes.

MIMI gives the money to RENÉ.

RENÉ Mimi. What do you mean “better luck next time”? What have you been up to for the last two hours?

MIMI We were playing tiddly winks. He could not get it in.

RENÉ He was probably using a wobbly wink.

MIMI goes.

RENÉ takes the money to the till.

YVETTE comes downstairs, with a second German. He carries a sink plunger.

My God! (He rushes to open the door for the German)

YVETTE Goodbye, Monsieur. As soon as you get a new ballcock, let me know.

The soldier goes.

RENÉ Yvette. Have you been doing anything I ought to know about?

YVETTE He is from the Maintenance Squad. He was replacing the what's-it in the bathroom.

RENÉ What a relief.

YVETTE Oh René. What will happen tonight if Hitler comes here and the Resistance try to nobble him? Why do we not run away together now?

RENÉ My wife has locked the till.

YVETTE Oh René.

RENÉ Oh Yvette.

They embrace. He bends her back over his arm.

EDITH *enters.*

EDITH René. What are you doing with that girl?

RENÉ You stupid woman. What do you think I am doing with her? (*He fans YVETTE with his hands*) Can you not see that she has fainted?

YVETTE *goes limp.*

From lack of food. These girls are working round the clock. I am just reviving her. (*He pats YVETTE's cheek*) Come along, Yvette. Take some deep breaths.

YVETTE *does so.*

(*looking down*) My God, I feel the life coming back.

YVETTE So do I.

EDITH Into the kitchen with you. Have a nice bowl of soup and in future, do not pass out near my husband.

YVETTE Yes, Madame Edith.

YVETTE *exits.*

CRABTREE *enters.*

CRABTREE Good moaning.

RENÉ Good moaning.

CRABTREE Are we aloon?

RENÉ For the moment, yes.

CRABTREE I will give a secret signal on my wossle. (*He blows his police whistle*)

MICHELLE *enters, dressed as a Resistance girl. She carries a suitcase.*

MIMI *enters through the bar door.*

RENÉ Ah. I see you have abandoned your hare-brained scheme to capture Hitler and you are about to leave the country. Goodbye and good luck.

EDITH The Resistance do not give up that easy. They do not have the lily liver like you, you coward.

CRABTREE Listen very curfully. She will sow this only wince.

MICHELLE As you have refused to impersonate Hitler, you will place instead in your window a dummy of Hitler. The dummy is in this case.

RENÉ The dummy of Hitler is in that case?

MICHELLE That is correct.

EDITH He must be a very little Hitler.

MICHELLE It is a full-size Hitler and made of rubber. (*She opens the case and starts to take out the dummy*)

CRABTREE You infloat him with a pimp or with compressed ear. (*He takes out a pump*) Here is the pimp. If the pimp or the compressed ear fail, you can take this pope (*he shows a pipe attached to the model*) and use your broth.

RENÉ Now I have seen everything.